

# WELCOME



## ARCENT QATAR

# "CAMP AS-SAYLIYAH"

**WELCOME PACKET**

**ARCENT-QATAR**  
**“CAMP AS SAYLIYAH”**

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DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
U. S. ARMY FORCES CENTRAL COMMAND-QATAR  
CAMP AS SAYLIYAH, QATAR  
APO AE 09898

REPLY TO  
ATTENTION OF

Office of the Commander

Welcome to the United States Army Forces Central Command-Qatar (ARCENT-QA), Camp As Sayliyah, Doha Qatar. We are pleased to have you as part of our team and look forward to your arrival. ARCENT-Qatar is One Team! A united, vigilant, and integrated organization of soldiers, Department of Defense and contract civilians that provide responsive world class mission support and customer service to tenant units, forward deployed soldiers, and their families.

The mission of ARCENT-QA is to maintain a forward presence and exercise command and control over assigned forces in Qatar. We conduct Reception, Staging, Onward Movement, and Integration (RSOI) of forces deploying in support of contingency operations and exercises and we provide logistics support to forces transiting or deploying to Qatar. We are a forward deployed wartime garrison that provides expert regional mission support and installation management.

You will be part of a community comprised of ARCENT, the Army Material Command (AMC), the 25<sup>th</sup> Signal Battalion, and the USCENTCOM and SOCCENT forward headquarters. Your time in Qatar will be both personally and professionally rewarding. You will be part of an important effort that directly supports the Global War on Terrorism, and you will experience great opportunities for professional growth. Qatar is a beautiful and unique country with many opportunities for cultural enrichment and fun. I challenge you to enjoy your time in Qatar and to become active with and embraced by the Greater Doha Community and the people of Qatar.

If you have any further questions, contact the S1 at (commercial) 011-974-460-2240, or (mobile) 011-974-550-0154. Again, welcome to ARCENT-Qatar.

Patton's Own!

JEFFREY C. CORBETT  
Lieutenant Colonel, Infantry  
Commanding Officer

## **About Modern Qatar**

Qatar is a peninsula, 11,437 square kilometers in area, which projects from the Arabian mainland.

It is about 160 kilometers in length and 80 kilometers in width at its widest point. Overall, the country is very flat, rising to only 110 meters at its highest point, and the land mass largely consists of scrubby desert terrain, covered in sand and loose gravel.

The country is largely formed of limestone deposits and clays, laid down in various geologically defined areas. A broad North-South arch dominates the structure of the land, with the Dukhan anticline to the west, while the coastal areas are mostly characterized by salt flats, with an area of high sand dunes in the southeast. Lying in the path of strong prevailing south-easterly winds, the peninsula owes many of its features to wind erosion, in addition to significant fluctuations in the level of the sea-bed. The latter is responsible for the fact that Qatar is now separated from Bahrain and from the small islands that surround the peninsula, all of which, at one time, formed a complete land mass.

There are several small islands dotted around the coastline of Qatar. The most significant of these are Halal, located 90 kilometers off the east coast and used as an oil processing, storage and export terminal, and the Hawar Islands to the west, which are currently the subject of an ownership dispute between Qatar and Bahrain. The resolution of this conflict is in the hands of the International Court of Justice.

In the 1950's the main developments for the foundation of a modern state were begun. Schools began to be built, along with roads, power stations and a hospital. After the abdication of Sheikh Abdullah in 1949, Qatar was ruled first by Sheikh Ali Al-Thani, then by his son Ahmad until 1972, although Khalifa, the son of Hamad, Sheikh Abdulla's oldest son, was de facto ruler for much of this latter period. During this time the British announced their intention of withdrawing from all their treaties of protection and defense commitments in the Middle East by 1971.

The Gulf States, which had all effectively been guaranteed by these treaties, decided to unite and form a federation of Arab Emirates. This was due to consist of Bahrain, Qatar, Abu Dhabi, Dubai, Sharjah, Ras Al Khaimah, Ajman, Umm Al Qawain and Fujairah. Lengthy negotiations ensued and, ultimately, Qatar and Bahrain opted for independence from the other states, which subsequently formed the United Arab Emirates in December 1971.

## **Weekend/Public Holidays**

Public Holidays: Friday is the weekly holiday with many businesses working only half a day on Thursday. Embassies and government offices are closed on Thursday. The Muslim Holidays of Eid al-Fitr (at the end of Ramadan), Eid Al Adha (during the month of the Haj), and the Islamic New Year are all observed in Qatar. The length of the two Eid Holidays varies from year to year. The National Day is Sept. 3, when embassies and government offices are closed, but most private businesses stay open.

## **Doha In The 1960's**

Qatar formulated a constitution in 1970 and formally declared independence Sept. 3, 1971. This date has remained as the country's National Day since then. In February 1972, the Al-Thani family decided that Khalifa should formally take over as ruler from Ahmad. He reigned from 1972 to mid-1995, when his eldest son and Heir Apparent, Sheikh Hamad, assumed power. During Khalifa's reign, oil revenues increase significantly, due both to increased production and to the dramatic rise in the price of oil. Qatar entered a new phase of substantial prosperity and the population benefited from this wealth by government establishment of free housing, education and health care for all citizens. Doha grew from a small settlement to a large city within the space of a few years, and the trappings of modern life began to appear throughout the country. It was during this period also that large numbers of expatriate workers were hired to assist in the rapid and dramatic growth and modernization of the State.

Since 1995, and the assumption of power by Sheikh Hamad, Qatar has opened its doors wider to international investment, and has increased its potential for growth even further. Various production-sharing agreements have brought overseas oil companies back into the country to maximize the potential of reserves, while the discovery and development of the huge gas field to the north east of the country promise to augment the State's national wealth even further. This is particularly crucial at the present time, as falling oil prices threaten to have an adverse impact on the economy. Qatar has always strived to make itself known for sound foreign policy and international diplomacy.

Shortly after the foundation of the State, Qatar joined the United Nations and the Arab League. It became a member of the International Monetary Fund, and the World Bank. These overseas links have been maintained and strengthened during recent years, while internal changes are constantly taking place to modernize the State. The council of Ministers was rationalized shortly after Sheikh Hamad's accession and 1999 will see the first ever-municipal council elections. On a local level, Qatar is an active member of the Gulf Cooperation Council and often hosts summits in Doha. The most recent of these was the World Trade Organization (WTO) in November 2001. In 1996, equally prestigious was the hosting of the 1997 Middle East and North Africa Summit, which was attended by many dignitaries, including the American Secretary of State Madeleine Albright.

## **The Ruling Family**

The Al-Thani Family arrived in Qatar during the early 18<sup>th</sup> century from the Arabian hinterland and eventually settled in Doha. The current Emir, Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al-Thani is the eighth member of the Al-Thani family to rule, taking over in June 1995. Born in Doha in 1950, Sheikh Hamad's education was completed at Sandhurst in the United Kingdom.

## **Visa and Passport**

The Embassy provides assistance in obtaining residence permits, Qatari identification cards, health cards and exit visas. For each service, it is imperative the new arrival provide certain information to the S1 Administrative Section who acts as U.S. Central Command's primary operational liaison with the Embassy's General Services Office.

It is imperative that you arrive in Doha, Qatar with an Official U.S. Passport and a Qatar Visa. You will apply for this at your parent unit once notified of your assignment to Qatar. Immigration at the Airport will stamp your passport with an Entry Date. The date will be used to apply for your Residency, Qatari Identification Card, Medical Card and Qatari Drivers License. You must also have your Military ID Card with you and a copy and your Reassignment, TDY or TCS orders.

The Host Nation Coordination Cell (HNCC) provides assistance in obtaining residency permits, Qatari identification cards, health cards, and exit letters for military as well as U.S. DOD civilians, while residing in Qatar.

## **ARCENT-QA Medical Service**

Currently Camp As-Sayliyah's Troop Medical Clinic is capable of providing primary, emergency and routine medical care to Active Duty Soldiers and other beneficiaries. The Director of Health Services will help family members select TRICARE-approved host nation providers to provide medical and dental care.

Doha, Qatar has a public health system similar to what you would see in the United States. Several of the Host Nation Physicians have received training in the United States. Qatar has several private health care practitioners and dentists to care for your family members. Personnel who are going to be stationed in Qatar must bring a six-month supply of medication with them. This ensures the medical community has time to reorder your medicines without interrupting your treatment.

For those requiring emergency treatment beyond the scope of practice of the providers in Qatar, MEDEVAC arrangements will be coordinated through the Director of Health Services.

TRICARE Europe remote and United Concordia Dental insurance plans are accepted by many of the host nation providers here. Soldiers must arrive in Dental Class I or II and orthodontics/braces are NOT authorized at this location. If you have any questions pertaining to Medical or Dental care availability for yourself or your family members, please contact the Director of Health Services of ARCENT-QA: DSN 318-432-2255 or Mobile 011-974-584-7216. The alternate POC is at: Mobile 011-974-583-5448.

## **Required immunizations**

The State of Qatar recognizes the American Academy of Pediatric standards for immunizations. It is also recommended that school age children receive the BCG vaccination, because tuberculosis is very prevalent in the Middle East.

Adults are required to have all childhood vaccinations to include a one-time adult dose of oral polio and current TB Tine Test. Other recommended immunizations for adults are Hepatitis A and Hepatitis B vaccines. **You must also have the first three sets of ANTHRAX shots before you come to Qatar.**

It is recommended that vaccinations be given four to six weeks prior to travel in order to ensure they are effective upon arrival. There are some medical conditions that will bar an individual from entry into the country: HIV, AIDS, Hepatitis A, Hepatitis B, and Tuberculosis. Ensure you bring your yellow shot record, medical and dental records.

## **MWR Activities**

### **ARCENT-QA Morale, Welfare and Recreation/Quality of Life program:**

ARCENT-QA has a strong quality of life program. Soldiers and families assigned to the unit will find a host of services available in country, with more programs becoming available in the near future. Currently the following services are offered to ARCENT-QA Soldiers and families:

- A full-sized weight room including free weights, weight machines, exercise bikes, treadmills, rowing machines, weight belts and so on
- A video library including recently released VHS and DVD movies, as well as Sony Play Station systems and games
- An expanding book library is in progress
- Half-price golf passes at a premier PGA style golf course, and free golf equipment check-out
- Tennis and squash courts are currently available in the Al Messilah housing complex, tennis gear is available for check out
- Fishing and sailing trips are available for charter through the Doha Sheraton hotel
- Discount SCUBA gear rentals and Diving Course
- A variety of board games, card games, and other recreational gear
- Trips around Qatar to include: Sea-line resort, Inland Sea, The Zubara Fort, Zakreet Beach, The Al Kohr Corniche, Al Ruwais and Camel Races
- Trips in Doha to include: The Qatar National Museum, The Doha Zoo, Horse Racing and Seasonal cultural events.



## Cable Television

The U.S. Army also provides a Cable television service. Currently there are about 40 English channels available, which include 10 AFRTS channels w/sports and movie programming.

There is also a wide range of international television services, all channels are screened daily to satisfy all tastes, and are censored to adhere to local standards in the host nation. The English channels include: CNN International, CNBC, Orbit-ESPN, Orbit News, BBC World, National Geographic, The Hollywood Channel, Super Movies, Star Movies, Channel V (Indian MTV), America Plus, The Disney Channel and the Fun Channel. You will not be billed for cable television services.

## Army Education Center

The Army Education Center is open from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m., seven days a week in Building 111. Get friendly and knowledgeable information on everything from choosing colleges, classes, majors, distance learning and eArmyU. Find out about FAST classes, getting college credit from your military experience, earning civilian education promotion points and much more.

DANTES exams are free to service members and you can receive up to six semester hours by passing just one exam! We offer the Army Personnel Test, which includes career enhancing examinations such as DLPT, DLAB, AFAST, and more. A Test Proctor for your online and distance learning courses is also available.

Twenty online computers are available at the Army Learning Center! Here you may learn more about ACCP, AARTS transcripts, PowerPoint classes, ATRRS, online Military publication and Military publication on electronic media.

## Finance

The finance office is open seven days a week and is located in Building 106.

Saturday – Thursday		Friday
Military Pay:	8 to 11:30 a.m. and 1 to 4:30 p.m.	Military Pay: 1 to 4:30 p.m.
Cashier:	8:30 a.m. to noon and 1 to 4:30 p.m.	Cashier: 1 to 4:30 p.m.

Entitlements include:

- Combat Zone Tax Exclusion (Officers up to \$6300 monthly)
- Hardship Pay (\$50)
- Hostile Fire Duty Pay (\$225)
- Family Separation Pay as applicable (\$250)
- TCS soldiers receives \$3.50 per day
- COLA is authorized for PCS soldiers

**Must have memorandum signed by S-1 office, stating date arrived in country to start combat zone entitlements. Units may use manifest as opposed to individual memorandums.**

**Savings Deposit Program:** 10 percent annually up to \$10,000 compounded quarterly

- Can be started 30 days after arrival into theater
- Deposits are limited to Base Pay Plus entitlements
- RC and NG TCS Soldiers may make deposits using cash or check
- PCS Soldiers can make deposit using cash, check, or allotment

**Thrift Saving Plan:**

- You may enroll by going to: <http://www.tsp.gov>
- You also may come to the finance office to enroll

**Casual Pay Policy:**

- Available to all service members
- PCS Soldiers \$350/per month
- R&R Soldiers \$550/per month

**Check Cashing Policy:**PCS & TCS:

One year+: \$745.00/per week

TCS & TDY:

Less than One year: \$350.00/per week

Use your Eagle Cash Card to make payments at the following locations:

- PX Gift Shops
- Post Office Alterations
- Barber/Beauty Shop Food Court
- Finance Office (to purchase U.S. or foreign currency)

**Eaglecash Kiosks:** function very much like an ATM

- Soldiers may use the kiosks to load and return funds to their savings or checking account prior to departing Qatar
- Daily limit \$350
- No transaction fees
- Enrollment process must be completed at the Finance office
- The kiosks are available 24 hours a day and seven days per week

## **Post Office**

The Postal hours of operations are Monday through Saturday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.; and Sunday from 1 to 5:30 p.m. The Post Office is closed from noon to 1 p.m., for lunch. The main APO building is located in Building 106, and the Postal Operations office is located in Building 110.

### In Processing/Out Processing

- If you are new, or getting ready to leave you must in process or out process through Postal Operations in Building 110, room 6.

### Mailing Methods

- Free Mail: 8-11 days (Standard envelopes 13 oz or less)
- First Class Mail: 7-10 days
- Priority Mail: 7-10 days
- Space Available Mail: 4-5 weeks
- Media Mail: 4-5 weeks
- MPS: Varies (Depending on if there is a flight that day)

### Available Special Services

- Certified Mail
- Insured Mail
- Return Receipt
- Registered Mail

### Filing Claim

You may file a claim for compensation for loss, damaged, insured, or registered mail. Bring the damaged mail and proof of purchase along with the original box and packing material to the post office and the postal clerk will help you file your claim.

## **Miscellaneous Information**

Current exchange rate is fixed at: \$1 = 3.63 Qatari Riyals.

There are no government laundry/dry cleaning facilities available in Qatar. However, commercial cleaners are located on post and are inexpensive. All individuals must pay for their own cleaning cost. A laundry service is available on post at cost to the individual.

# AAFES

**Retail:** There is a Troop Store that is not geared towards families. It offers items for Single Service Members.

**Services:**

Concession Operations:

Laundry/Dry Cleaning

Barber/Beauty Shop

Gift Shops

Photo Shop

Jewelry Shop

Rug Shop

Day Spa

Taylor Shop / Alterations

**Food:** Subway, Pizza Inn, Greenbean Coffee, Orange Julius, Burger King and Pub/Cantina.  
Coming Soon: StarBucks and Baskin Robbins.

Hours at all operations vary, but they are set with the Customer in Mind.

## LEGAL

The Legal Office on Camp As Sayliyah provides a broad array of basic legal services. Two attorneys, a Command Judge Advocate (JAG Attorney) and a Civilian Attorney, provide advice to the Military and Civilian personnel and Unit Commanders, concerning Military Justice (UCMJ), Contract Law, Ethics, and International Law.

They also provide legal assistance to Soldiers and civilians on private legal matters such as divorce, child custody, immigration, and regarding commercial transactions such as real estate and banking matters. Notarization of documents, and drafting and execution of Powers of Attorney and Wills are also services provided at no charge. They are assisted by an experienced legal NCO or paralegal.

## Church Services

The Installation Ministry Team (IMT) serves ARCENT-QA to ensure the free exercise of religion for all personal and family members stationed here. We have excellent worship and classroom facilities in Building 126.

Some of our worshipping faith groups include Protestant, Catholic, Latter Day Saints, Muslim and Jewish. We also have small group studies, fellowships and choirs as well as special events and seasonal celebrations.

A complete Religious Schedule is posted in common areas and available on CAS and the ARCENT-QA Website. Most importantly our communities and faith groups are where people connect with one another, volunteer and serve their God.

Our chaplains and assistants are available for counseling and help for all persons regardless of religious affiliation or belief. Our chaplains provide import rites, instruction and spiritual insight for those who seek it in their faith communities. The IMT is trained and ready to assist in emergencies and involved in Red Cross family notifications.

Senior Installation Chaplain	432-2198
Catholic Chaplain	432-4338
NCOIC	432-4401
DSN: 312-432-xxxx	

## Religious Services Schedule

### Catholic

Confession heard one hour before Sat & Sun

Mass and by appointment

Catholic Mass	Sunday	9 a.m.
Catholic Mass	Saturday	5 p.m.
Catholic Mass	Monday –Thursday	noon

### Protestant

Protestant Worship	Sunday	10:30 a.m.
Church of Christ	Sunday	7 p.m.
Bible Study	Tuesday and Thursday	7 p.m.
Arabic Christian		
Bible Study (Large Gym)	Wednesday	7:30 p.m.
Choir Practice	Thursday and Saturday	7 p.m.

### Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints

Worship Service	Sunday	4 p.m.
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### Muslim

Jumah Prayer (Post Mosque)	Friday	11 a.m.
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### Jewish

Shabbat (Al Udeid)	Friday	7 p.m.
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## Do's and Don'ts:

**Do** remember that Qatar is a Muslim country, and you need to dress appropriately. Both men and women should only wear shorts and sleeveless tops at the beach or around a private enclosed pool.

**Do** be prepared to bargain with shopkeepers, especially in the Souqs (street markets).

**Do** make sure to drink plenty of water, and watch for potential heat injuries, especially in the summer months. On average you should drink one pint of water for every 10 degrees Fahrenheit (80 degrees = eight pints/day). Headaches, nausea, and excessive sweat are some of the signs that you are dehydrating and overheating.

**Do** remember to protect yourself from the sun. A head cover is recommended to prevent severe sunburn. Sun block is also recommended.

**Don't** wade in the coastal waters barefoot. Poisonous stone-fish frequent the shallows. They look like rocks but inject a poison into your foot when stepped on.

**Do** ask permission from people before taking their photograph. Many of the older people and most of the host nation women object to having their picture taken. Most government buildings, police, and armed forces buildings are off-limits for casual photography. When in doubt, ask first.

**Don't** forget to use sun block on any exposed skin.

**Don't** cross your feet in such a way as to expose the bottoms of your feet to Qatari hosts. Showing the bottoms of ones feet is considered an insult.

**Don't** be afraid to go out at night, especially in the markets, malls, and along the Corniche.

**Don't** hand over or receive items with your left hand. Don't use your left hand to pick up food if eating with your fingers. Muslim convention holds that the left hand is reserved for "bodily functions".

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### **Motoring Do's and Don'ts:**

**Do** remember to keep your driver's license, vehicle registration, road permit, and insurance documents on hand. There's an on the spot \$200QR fine when pulled over by the police.

**Do** wear seat belts at all times. U.S. military law requires it. Traffic in Qatar can also be hazardous at times.

**Do** check your tires often. Heat and road conditions can lead to blowouts.

**Do** check for no parking signs. Parking fines range from \$300QR to \$1000QR.

**Do** watch out for emergency vehicles and make way for them.

**Don't** drive off road into the desert. The sand can "swallow" tires and leave you stranded. Seemingly hard packed ground can give way unexpectedly. Leave the desert driving to the experienced locals.

**Don't** forget to bring your vehicle in for regular maintenance checks **Don't** forget to keep your gas tank full, especially when traveling outside the city, and over long weekends.

**Don't** forget to watch for camels crossing the roads outside of town. These large animals can prove fatal upon impact with a vehicle. Camels are also a highly valued animal, with prices starting at \$100,000QR (\$27,548 U.S.).

**Don't** speed. Qatar police use high-speed photography and radar traps to catch those violating the speed limit. Fines start at \$200QR. Driving through a stoplight is a minimum of \$1000QR.





